



**National Geographic Society
2022 STEM Field Assistant Program
External Internship Opportunity Description
PHILIPPINES**

Position/title

Field Assistant, Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute Philippines

Dates of Internship

Fieldwork: May 15 - July 23, 2022 (dates can be flexible)

Cohort Experience: Monthly webinars April - December 2022

Principal Investigator (PI)/Designated Mentor:

[Alessandro Ponzio](#), Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute, Philippines

Summary of STEM Field Assistant Program

The National Geographic STEM Field Assistant Program seeks to identify highly motivated upper-level undergraduate students or recent graduates from underrepresented or marginalized groups interested in pursuing STEM careers. The program provides hands-on experience to help the student (the “Field Assistant”) build a network of peers and senior scientists who can mentor them and give them the confidence and support to advance in their chosen field. Field Assistants will have an opportunity to be partnered with a Principal Investigator from the National Geographic Explorer community who will serve as a mentor during 8-10 weeks of field research between May - August 2022. Along with the field research, Field Assistants will attend monthly webinars hosted by National Geographic and led by additional members of the National Geographic Explorer community. Webinars will be focused on information or skills needed to succeed in STEM disciplines such as research project design, graduate school applications, and science communication. Recruitment will focus on students local to the country where the fieldwork is taking place and preference will be given to first-generation university students, which we define as students who are the first person in their immediate family to attend university. The Field Assistants will commit to approximately 8-10 weeks of fieldwork between May - August 2022, a series of webinars from May - December 2022, and a grant writing workshop in late 2022. National Geographic will cover field expenses and offer a U.S. \$4,000 scholarship to those in the program.

Summary of Field Research Project

Description: Marine megafauna like sharks, dolphins and marine turtles have been exploited for centuries in the Philippines with many populations now considered endangered. Very little is known about these species in the Philippines hindering their sustainable management and conservation. The Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute Philippines (LAMAVE) works to fill these knowledge gaps using innovative technologies and training the next generation of ocean conservation leaders.

This Field Assistant position gives an opportunity to experience several different research projects, potentially including whale shark surveys (boat based survey, conducting photo identification, participating in satellite tagging and behavioral observations of tourism shark interactions), manta ray surveys (diving survey for photo identification and deployment of long



term RUV cameras), and deep sea BRUV surveys (assessing fish biodiversity and assemblages between 100 and 2000m, developing small open access drop cams) as well as joining the wildlife rescue team to respond to marine turtle and marine mammal strandings. To learn more about the projects and activities, visit www.lamave.org

Location: Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippine, with other field locations in Palawan.

Related Field of Study Required

Current undergraduate student working towards a degree in Biology, Ecology, Conservation, or any science related fields, or recent graduate with strong interest in pursuing a marine conservation career.

Expected Responsibilities, Benefits and Learning Opportunities

Programmatic:

- Opportunity to be mentored by a National Geographic Explorer and to virtually meet other Explorers from around the world
- Develop field-based skills in your chosen field
- Participate in a global cohort of Field Assistants and attend monthly virtual meetings
- Learn more about best practices in writing grant applications and write a practice application
- Travel expenses covered by NGS
- Scholarship up to 4000 USD

Field-based:

- Field surveys, including free diving or diving (depending on research project and skill level)
- Technology development and testing
- Study design and Data analysis
- Science communication and public speaking.

Expectations, Qualifications, Attitudes and Skills Required

Programmatic:

- Demonstrated and keen interest in pursuing a career in marine conservation.
- Enthusiastic willingness to dedicate 8-10 weeks of time learning from and assisting the Principal Investigator during the fieldwork portion of this program
- Enrolled as a rising third or fourth-year undergraduate student in an accredited school or graduated within the past year, as of August 2022
- Responsible for your own health care coverage (costs can be reimbursed)
- Maintain a Grade Point Average of 2.5 or higher (or the equivalent)
- Willing to commit to a 8-9 month experience, including mentorship activities, webinars, and a grant writing workshop (including writing a preliminary grant proposal)
- Proficient in conversational English, but does not need to be a native English speaker
- Displays traits from the [Explorer Mindset](#) or potential to grow in this mindset

Field-based:

- Willingness to travel for long periods of time away from home
- Willingness to spend time in remote areas, live in remote situations, possibly without electricity or water



- Willingness to respectfully and meaningfully engage with a variety of stakeholders, including community members, fishers, rangers and protected area staff, conservation partners, dive operators and tourists about the project
- Computer skills such as using laptop computer and entering data and notes
- Ability to both work independently on specific tasks and as a part of a team
- Experience with research, communicating science, photography and/or videography is a plus
- Interest in and knowledge of marine conservation and deep sea technology
- Comfort in the water and ability to swim in open sea, and freedive up to 5 meters
- Ability to communicate in Tagalog and/or Visaya

Deadline: All Applications are due March 7th, 2022

[APPLY HERE](https://forms.nationalgeographic.org/NJWT)

If the link doesn't work, please copy this URL in your browser.

<https://forms.nationalgeographic.org/NJWT>

We encourage you to apply even if your experience is not a 100% match with the qualifications. We are looking for someone with relevant interests and experience rather than someone who checks every box on the opportunity description.